UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1775
17 November 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General, back at Headquarters after visit to Jamaica, meets with NATO Secretary-General.

- UNPROFOR says missile attacks against areas in which peace-keepers are present, or any military attacks against Bihac safe area, will result in use of NATO air power.

- General Assembly asks Member States and funding agencies to assist Nicaragua's efforts to overcome effects of war and natural disaster; discusses report of Population and Development Conference.

- Croatian Government accepts draft economic agreement put forward by International Conference on Former Yugoslavia; Croatian Serbs to consider document on Saturday.

- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia tells Special Political and Decolonization Committee UNPROFOR presence has ensured its security, and peace and stability in Balkan region.

- Member States owe United Nations $2.12 billion as of 15 November; $559 million owed to regular budget and $1.56 billion to peace-keeping.

- United Nations appeals to all combatants in Afghanistan to observe cease-fire during first round of mass immunization campaign.

- Special Representative Khan says biggest challenge facing Rwanda is ensuring safe return of refugees from neighbouring countries.

- Economic and Financial Committee hears divergent views on usefulness of UNITAR; United States says Institute has not found its niche, while Nigeria says it is vital part of United Nations system.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was back at Headquarters today, where he met with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Willy Claes. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said recently that the meeting would focus on cooperation between the two Organizations, which he described as excellent.

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Before concluding his official visit to Jamaica yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). He stressed the importance to the United Nations of close cooperation with CARICOM and other regional organizations. He also expressed appreciation for the Community's active support of efforts to restore democracy in Haiti, particularly for its participation in phase one and its contribution of personnel to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today warned the Bosnian Serbs that any further use of SAM 2 missiles against areas in which peace-keepers were present, or any attacks against the Bihac safe area, would result in the use of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power. Two missiles today landed harmlessly in farmland near the town of Cazin, several kilometres from a Bangladeshi UNPROFOR position, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, forces loyal to Fikret Abdic have been besieging the town of Velika Kladusa -- the former home base of the rebel Muslim leader -- in an effort to win back ground taken by the Bosnian Government Army earlier this year. The spokesman said those forces appeared to have regrouped from refugee camps in Croatia, and to have been armed and assisted by the Croatian Serbs. It was not known whether Croatian Serb troops had crossed the border, but they had been firing into the Bihac pocket in support of the Abdic offensive.

The spokesman went on to say that the Presidency building in Sarajevo had been hit by three wire-guided anti-tank missiles today, noting that they were classified as heavy weaponry. The building was also hit by rocket-propelled grenades.

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The General Assembly today requested broad and flexible support from Member States and funding agencies for Nicaragua's attempts to overcome the effects of war and natural disaster. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Nicaraguan authorities, to continue to provide all necessary assistance for the country's reconstruction and development. Assistance should be provided in such areas as the settlement of displaced persons, land ownership and tenure, direct care for war victims, and mine clearance.

The Assembly also began its consideration of the report of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), with particular emphasis on the follow-up to the Conference. Speakers focused on the need to review, adjust and strengthen the plans and programmes of the various United Nations agencies involved. They also highlighted the role of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the implementation and monitoring of the Conference's Programme of Action.

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The Croatian Government has accepted a draft economic agreement put forward by the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, while the Croatian Serbs will consider it on Saturday. The Co-Chairmen of the Conference, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, expressed the hope that both parties would soon sign the agreement.

Lord Owen said structures that would provide peace and prosperity for Croats and Croatian Serbs were slowly being established. He went on to say that conclusion of the agreement would be a far more positive step for the Croatian Serbs than involvement in a conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and warned them against any illegal military activity in the Bihac pocket.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is playing a key role in ensuring the security of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and peace and stability in the Balkan region, that country's representative has told the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization). He noted that the UNPROFOR presence in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia represented the first time United Nations military units had been deployed in the interest of preventive diplomacy.

The representative of China told the Committee that respect for State sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs must be reaffirmed to ensure the success of peace-keeping operations. The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic stressed the need for peace-keeping operations to be of a non-intrusive and non-interventionist nature, and to be mandated only at the request or with the consent of the States or parties involved.

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As of 15 November, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.12 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $559 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.56 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $290 million to the regular budget and $397 million to the peace-keeping budget. The Russian Federation owed $28 million to the regular budget and $537 million to peace-keeping.

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The United Nations today called on all combatants in Afghanistan to observe a cease-fire from 19 to 26 November to ensure the success of the first round of a mass immunization campaign. Sotirios Mousouris, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative and Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, said he had received written assurances of cooperation from the country's political leaders.

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The campaign is being organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It aims to reduce the number of children dying from preventable diseases in Afghanistan, and to strengthen routine immunization services throughout the country. In the first round, children will be vaccinated against measles and polio, while their mothers will be vaccinated against tetanus. In addition, all children under five years of age will be given a vitamin-A supplement where vaccine storage facilities exist.

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The biggest challenge facing Rwanda is ensuring the safe return of refugees from neighbouring countries, according to Special Representative Shahryar Khan. In an interview with United Nations Radio, he said the United Nations and the international community had to put an end to the intimidation of refugees in camps near the Rwandan border.

One option for consideration by the Security Council would involve separating politicized elements from ordinary refugees, Mr. Khan continued. However, those refugees would have to be moved into new camps, and that would entail tremendous logistical efforts at great expense. Another option would involve deploying foreign troops to help "neutralize" the politicized elements. He stressed that the options being considered could not work without the full support of the Rwandan Government. They would also require the backing of the Governments of Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi, he added.

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The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) has heard divergent views on the mandate, reform and usefulness of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The representative of the United States said his country was not yet convinced that the Institute had found its "niche" in the United Nations system, or that its training activities could not be performed by other United Nations bodies. He added that UNITAR must demonstrate that its programmes justified the expense of a separate United Nations agency.

The Acting Director of UNITAR, Marcel Boisard, said the Institute had found a niche which proved the validity of its mandate, and which now had to be consolidated. The representative of Nigeria said UNITAR had been turned from a moribund and forgotten body into a research and training centre that was a vital part of the United Nations system. He called on the Institute to maintain its mandate and identity, and not allow itself to be submerged into any other United Nations agency.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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18 November 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council President expresses grave concern at continued fighting around Bihac; Serb aircraft attack safe area with napalm and cluster bombs, despite call for end to all hostile actions.

+ Security Council calls on Angolan President to ensure strict adherence to truce established with UNITA; urges signing of Lusaka Protocol on Sunday as agreed.

+ Secretary-General to visit Italy, Morocco and Algeria next week; will address United Nations Conference on Organized Transnational Crime in Naples.

+ Denmark offers 5,000 troops for United Nations stand-by arrangements for peace-keeping; encourages other countries to do likewise.

+ African development is single greatest challenge facing international community, Secretary-General says as General Assembly marks Africa Industrialization Day.

+ Georgian/Abkhaz talks end without agreement on return of refugees; Special Envoy Brunner notes some progress on question of overall political settlement.

+ UNHCR says humanitarian action in conflict situations must remain independent of United Nations-authorized political and military activities.

+ CNN to provide in-depth coverage of events commemorating United Nations fiftieth anniversary, Under-Secretary-General Sorensen tells Preparatory Committee for year.

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The Security Council has expressed grave concern at the situation in the Bihac area, and the failure of the parties to respond to its Presidential statement of 13 November. In remarks to correspondents yesterday, Council President Madeleine Albright (United States) reiterated the call in that

statement for an end to all hostile actions in the Bihac area. She also noted reports of cross-border firing by "the so-called Krajina Serbs", and called on them to desist immediately.

The Council President expressed concern at the threat posed by the hostilities to the safety of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel, and at the restrictions imposed by the Krajina Serbs on their freedom of movement and supply. She also noted that UNPROFOR had warned that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air support might be called in, and expressed appreciation for the Croatian Government's restraint in the crisis.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today said that two aircraft had attacked the Bihac safe area, and that two aircraft had been observed taking off from an airfield in nearby Serb-held Croatia at around the same time. However, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) did not confirm that they had crossed the international border. Two impacts were reported not far from the headquarters of the Bosnian Army's Fifth Corps, and fragments of napalm and cluster bombs were found at the scene, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, there was heavy fighting around the town of Velika Kladusa, with continuing cross-border firing.

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The Security Council today expressed concern at allegations that the truce agreed to by the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) was not being respected. In a message issued by its President Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council called on Angolan President José Eduardo Dos Santos to ensure that his forces adhered strictly to the terms of the truce.

The Council urged President Dos Santos, as it was urging UNITA's Jonas Savimbi, to sign the Lusaka Protocol on Sunday, as had been agreed. It stressed that the signing of the Protocol and the prompt establishment of a cease-fire constituted "an essential condition for an expanded United Nations presence in Angola."

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York this weekend for Naples, where he will address the United Nations Conference on Organized Transnational Crime. The Conference, which will take place from 21 to 23 November, will examine the dangers posed by transnational crime in all regions and forge a new global strategy for prevention and control. It will be attended by Ministers of Justice and the Interior from all over the world.

The Secretary-General will then travel to Rome, where he will confer with the Prime Minister and other senior Government officials, and address the Italian Senate. He will later visit Morocco and Algeria for talks on Western Sahara, and will attend a meeting hosted by the Moroccan Government on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

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Denmark will make around 5,000 troops available for United Nations stand-by peace-keeping arrangements, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He made that announcement after a meeting between the Danish Defence Minister, Hans Haekkerup, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan.

In remarks to correspondents, Mr. Haekkerup noted that while the United Nations had no standing army, it could use stand-by forces for preventive or early deployments, before atrocities were committed. He suggested that other countries with long peace-keeping traditions match Denmark's contribution.

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African development is perhaps the single greatest challenge facing the international community, the Secretary-General told the General Assembly today. He said international support was vital to Africa's efforts to achieve stability, social progress, and the eradication of hunger and disease. He made those comments in a message for Africa Industrialization Day, 20 November, delivered on his behalf by Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

The New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s provided the framework within which the United Nations would support economic and social progress in Africa, the Secretary-General continued. He assured African countries of his full support for their industrialization, adding that the mobilization of the United Nations system in support of development was a special priority for him.

In his message for the Day, Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said there was a tendency to equate Africa with poverty, hunger, disease and civil strife. However, the continent was rich in natural and human resources, and industrialization was the key to the major problems confronting it. For industry to thrive and grow, the competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of the private sector must be allowed to flourish. Africa's governments should support entrepreneurs by creating an environment conducive to sustainable industrial development, he concluded.

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Talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties in Geneva ended today without any agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons. However, Special Envoy Edouard Brunner, who chaired the talks, reported that progress had been achieved on the question of an overall political settlement. He said the parties had agreed to consider a text prepared by him as an acceptable basis for negotiations.

The Secretary-General will now evaluate the results of the talks to determine if he should convene and chair further talks in Geneva beginning on 2 December, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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Humanitarian action in conflict situations must remain independent of United Nations-authorized political and military activities, according to the Director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at Headquarters, Soren Jessen-Petersen. However, he said that to be effective, humanitarian action must be related to a comprehensive strategy for peace, security, human rights and economic and social development. He made those comments to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) as it continued its review of peace-keeping operations.

Mr. Jessen-Petersen cautioned against the use of force under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter in connection with humanitarian activities. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, force had never been used to obtain access, he said. Instead, considerable effort had gone into negotiating access, with military escorts adding a deterrent value. Citing the situation in Somalia, on the other hand, he said the use of force against one party inevitably affected the perceived impartiality and neutrality of the Organization and its humanitarian bodies. In such circumstances, those bodies might have to distance themselves from United Nations military operations.

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Cable News Network will give in-depth and on-the-spot coverage of events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, according to Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy. She told the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations that such coverage was the kind "we have always dreamed about".

Updating the Committee on preparations for the anniversary, she said a new "UN50" information kit had been sent to delegations. Her staff was producing public service announcements for video, radio and print, which would be out early in 1995, while there had been many meetings with representatives of countries, non-governmental organizations, regional commissions and United Nations agencies. The actual United Nations Charter would be on public view at Headquarters at the start of 1995, she added.

Also yesterday, the Preparatory Committee discussed matters relating to the declaration being drafted for the anniversary. Cuba said the text submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement should be one of the bases for development of the draft. However, the United States favoured a shorter text with inspirational language which would be understood by everyone, not a text of five or six pages that would contain every theme of concern to various countries. Ukraine said the final text must be based on compromise and must reaffirm Charter principles.

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UNITED NATIONS

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21 November 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ NATO jets hit airstrip in Serb-held Croatia after Security Council expands authorization for use of air power in support of UNPROFOR; Special Representative Akashi says action was necessary and proportionate response to Serb attacks against Bihac safe area.

+ Security Council endorses results of Mozambican elections after Special Representative Ajello declares electoral process free and fair; calls on all parties to continue to work for national reconciliation on basis of democratic principles.

+ Security Council welcomes signing of Lusaka Protocol by Angolan Government and UNITA; voices concern at reports of continuing fighting in Angola, and reminds parties of obligation to respect cease-fire.

+ Secretary-General suggests creation of United Nations peace-keeping operation to establish security in Rwandese refugee camps; stresses need for parallel efforts towards national reconciliation in Rwanda, including repatriation and resettlement of refugees.

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Italy after opening Naples Conference on Organized Transnational Crime.

+ General Assembly begins discussions on Secretary-General's Agenda for Development; adds new item on support for new or restored democracies to current agenda.

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The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) today conducted a limited air strike to render the Udbina airstrip in Serb-controlled Croatia inoperable. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi described that action as a necessary and proportionate response to the continued use of the airstrip for air raids against the Bihac safe area in neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina. Those raids involved the use of napalm and cluster bombs, and endangered not only civilians but United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel. He noted that NATO had targeted the airstrip at Ubdina, and not the aircraft operating from it, in order to limit collateral damage and casualties.

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For information media—not an official record

On Saturday, the Security Council authorized Member States to use air power, in a national capacity or within regional arrangements, to support UNPROFOR in Croatia. It took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 958 (1994). The Council thus expanded the authorization given to Member States under resolution 836 (1993) to use air power, under its authority and subject to close coordination with the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR, in and around the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a second meeting on Saturday, the Council condemned violations of the international border between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. By unanimously adopting resolution 959 (1994), it demanded that all parties, particularly the "so-called Krajina Serbs", fully respect the border and refrain from all hostile acts across it. The Council fully supported UNPROFOR's efforts to ensure implementation of its resolutions on safe areas and demanded that all parties end hostile actions in and around those areas.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to update his recommendations on implementing the concept of safe areas and to encourage UNPROFOR to achieve agreements on their strengthening in cooperation with the Bosnian parties. It also recalled its 13 November request to him to report on further measures to stabilize the situation in and around the Bihac safe area. The Council asked the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR to intensify efforts to reach an agreement with the Bosnian parties on the demilitarization of Sarajevo and to report on the implementation of resolution 959 (1994) by 1 December.

In a statement by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), on Friday night, the Council condemned the bombing of Bihac that day by aircraft belonging to the so-called Krajina Serb forces. That attack, which involved the use of napalm and cluster bombs, violated the Bihac safe area, and was made more grave because of the threat it posed to UNPROFOR troops there. The Council also condemned shelling by the Krajina Serbs from the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) as a flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of relevant resolutions.

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The Security Council today endorsed the results of the recent Mozambican elections, after Special Representative Aldo Ajello declared the electoral process free and fair. It called on all parties to stand by their obligation to accept and fully abide by the results. It also called on them to continue the process of national reconciliation based, as provided for in the General Peace Agreement, on a system of multi-party democracy and the observance of democratic principles which would ensure lasting peace and political stability. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 960 (1994).

In a statement issued on Saturday, Mr. Ajello said the entire electoral process had been characterized by impartiality, dedication and professionalism on the part of the authorities. While there had been some irregularities and

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disruptions, there had been no event or series of events which could affect the overall credibility of the elections. President Joaquim Chissano won the presidential election with 53 per cent of the vote.

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The Security Council today welcomed the signing of the Lusaka Protocol by the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in the Zambian capital yesterday. In a statement by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council said the Protocol and the Bicesse Accords should lay the foundation for lasting peace in Angola. It said the parties must continue to demonstrate their commitment to peace through the full and timely implementation of the peace agreement.

The Council noted with concern reports that the fighting in Angola was continuing. It reminded the parties that they must fully respect the cease-fire which was to go into effect tomorrow. The Council said it was looking forward to a report from the Secretary-General that the cease-fire had become effective, thereby allowing the deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) military and police observers to reinforce the Organization's monitoring capabilities in the country.

Welcoming the signing of the Protocol, the Secretary-General said that the United Nations would be ready to start deploying UNAVEM II observers to former combat zones as soon as the cease-fire was effective. It would also begin implementation of provisions of Security Council resolution 952 (1994) concerning enlargement of the Mission.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye for his efforts in the search for peace in Angola. He also expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the three observer States -- the United States, Portugal and the Russian Federation -- and to the Presidents of the countries of the region who had made a significant contribution to the peace process. He went on to call on the international community to help the Angolan people achieve national reconciliation, reconstruction and development.

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The international community must make a determined effort to improve security in Rwandese refugee camps, especially those in Zaire, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 18 November, he identified three major military options for tackling the problem: a United Nations operation, set up in accordance with normal procedures, to establish security progressively in the camps; a United Nations force, set up under Chapter VII of the Charter, to separate former political leaders and military personnel from ordinary refugees; or a multinational force, authorized under Chapter VII but not under United Nations command, to carry out the same functions.

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The peace-keeping operation might be the most realistic way of improving security in the camps, the Secretary-General continued. However, it would be a difficult, complex and, to some extent, unprecedented enterprise. Member States would have to provide the necessary human, financial and logistical resources in a timely manner for it to be effective. He warned that any operation conducted without parallel efforts towards national reconciliation in Rwanda would be futile, and could even lead to an intensification of extremist activities in the camps. National reconciliation would require a political understanding between the former leadership and the present Government, and the establishment of conditions conducive to the return of refugees. Any operation that encouraged the repatriation of refugees who could not return to their home communities would merely add to the number of internally displaced persons in Rwanda.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General said he would concentrate all United Nations efforts on establishing secure conditions in the camps in Zaire and on providing financial and technical assistance to the Government in Rwanda. Once progress had been made on those two fronts, he would work with the Organization of African (OAU) to address the wider problems of the subregion.

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The Secretary-General was in Naples today, where he opened the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime. In his address, he said United Nations activities to control organized crime should be conceived in the broadest possible terms. They should strengthen economies and political institutions, promote economic and social development, and encourage democratic institutions and practices. One of the best ways of preventing transnational crime was to contribute to the development of countries experiencing economic difficulties and to introduce transparency in their political and social life, he concluded.

The Secretary-General later travelled to Rome, where he began an official visit to Italy. During his visit, he will have meetings with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, address a special session of the Italian Senate, and attend a seminar on the role of the United Nations in peace and development.

On Friday, the Secretary-General will leave Italy for visits to Algeria and Morocco. He will meet with the POLISARIO (Front populaire pour la libération de Saguia el-Hamra et du Rio de Oro) leadership in Tindouf, and will visit Laayoune, where the headquarters of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) is located. While in the area, he will hold talks with the parties concerned on the progress achieved in the voter identification process and on how best to proceed with implementation of the settlement plan.

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The General Assembly today began high-level consideration of the Secretary-General's report containing recommendations for "An Agenda for Development". Opening the debate, Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) stressed the importance of the link between disarmament and development. He supported the convening of an international conference on the financing of development in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions.

Clement Rohee, Senior Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guyana, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Suriname, called for better coordination of global economic and development policies in the United Nations system. He also advocated firm decisions on issues affecting trade, debt, finance and technology, and the establishment of a high-level inter-agency working group on external debt.

The establishment of a General Assembly working group to consider the Secretary-General's recommendations on "An Agenda for Development" was supported by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union) and Algeria (on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China). the outcome of the working group's consideration could be adopted on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Also today, acting on recommendations of its General Committee, the Assembly decided to include in the current agenda an additional item entitled "Support by the United Nations system for the efforts of governments to promote or consolidate new or restored democracies". It decided that the item would be considered directly in plenary.

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UNITED NATIONS

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22 November 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General has meetings with Pope John Paul II and Vatican Secretary of State; urges Vatican to send high-level delegation to 1995 Social Development Summit.

+ United Nations Protected Areas reported to be tense but quiet following NATO air strike against airstrip in Serb-held Croatia yesterday; fighting continues between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb forces in Bihac pocket.

+ United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights says situation in Burundi is litmus test of international community's willingness to prevent human rights tragedy.

+ Georgian President, Abkhaz leader, Russian Foreign Minister and CSCE Chairman invited to talks to be chaired by Secretary-General in Geneva on 2 December.

+ States bear primary responsibility for their own development, Turkey tells General Assembly; Romania says democratization implies reduced economic role for governments and greater reliance on private initiative.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves draft resolution by which Secretary-General could commit up to $60 million for UNAMIR for four months.

+ States parties to Law of Sea Convention hold ad hoc meeting to discuss deferment of elections for International Tribunal.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today met with Pope John Paul II and discussed issues of mutual concern, including the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Angola, and the Middle East. The Secretary-General also raised the question of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, urging that the Vatican send a high-level delegation to Copenhagen. He also met with the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General was later scheduled to have meetings with the Presidents of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Irene Pivetti, and of the Senate, Carlo Scognamiglio, and to address a special session of the Senate on the theme, "Role of the United Nations in Peace and Development".

Yesterday evening, the Secretary-General met with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino. They reviewed the latest developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Angola, Rwanda and Burundi. They also discussed the Secretary-General's recent trip to Transcaucasia, with particular emphasis on the Nagorny-Karabakh question and the role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the United Nations. Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed thanks for Italy's important role in the "success story" in Mozambique. He also expressed gratitude for Italy's offer to assist with the withdrawal of the United Nations forces in Somalia.

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The United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) were tense but quiet today, following yesterday's North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air strike against the Udbina airstrip in Serb-controlled Croatia, according to spokesman for the Organization. A United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) observation post overlooking Udbina was surrounded by Croatian Serb forces after the NATO action, and two Czech peace-keepers were taken hostage, but the situation was later resolved.

Across the border in Bosnia and Herzegovina, fighting was continuing in Velika Kladusa and in Bihac town, although Bosnian Serb forces were reported to have taken most of the Grabez plateau from Bosnian Government forces. The spokesman said that UNPROFOR convoys were still being denied access to the Bihac pocket, and that the Bangladeshi battalion there would run out of food rations on Friday. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) warehouses were already empty, he added.

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The situation in Burundi is a "litmus test" of the international community's willingness to act to prevent a human rights tragedy, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso. He made that comment in his first address to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) since the General Assembly established his mandate last year.

Mr. Ayala Lasso stressed the importance of prevention in the field of human rights. He said the situation in Rwanda could have spilled over to Burundi, which had maintained a tense calm since the killing of its President in April. The United Nations presence there had been heightened following contacts between the High Commissioner and the Government of Burundi. That presence could help the country to avoid the tragedy of Rwanda, he added.

Describing the experience in Rwanda as a "political success but a logistical failure", Mr. Ayala Lasso said measures should be taken to allow

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the Centre for Human Rights and the High Commissioner to respond rapidly to possible crises. They would need lists of experts who could be contacted rapidly and whose services could be used immediately. Equipment should also be readily available, he said.

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The Secretary-General has invited Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, and the current Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino, to talks on the Georgian/Abkhaz situation in Geneva on 2 December. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding has invited the Abkhaz leader, Vladislav Ardzinba, to the talks, which will be chaired by Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

The Georgian and Abkhaz parties met in Geneva last week, and made some progress on the question of an overall political settlement. They agreed to hold further talks in Moscow on 15 December.

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Although development is carried out in an international arena, every State has its own priorities and must take primary responsibility for its development, the representative of Turkey told the General Assembly this morning. He said the planning and implementation of development projects required a partnership that included the private sector, popular movements and community-based organizations. He made those comments as the Assembly continued its high-level consideration of the Secretary-General's report containing recommendations for An Agenda for Development.

The Austrian representative stressed that international development cooperation could not displace the primary responsibility of each State to promote its own development policy and efforts. An Agenda for Development should recognize that the development process was country-specific, he added. The representative of Romania said the creative capacity of the individual, acting within a supportive institutional and legal framework established by government, was vital to efficient and sustained economic growth. In the economic sphere, democratization implied a decreasing role for governments as main economic agents, decentralization in economic decision-making and support for private initiative.

Several speakers from developing countries suggested that one solution to the enormous problem of external debt was the total or substantial cancellation of the debts of the least developed and low-income countries. Speakers also advocated an intergovernmental working group, subordinated to the General Assembly, as the framework for conceptual discussion of An Agenda for Development.

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The United Nations should enhance its efforts to recruit staff from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States in order to become a truly international body, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) heard

today as it considered human resources management. The representative of China said the importance of the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be stressed as qualified staff could be found from all Member States. The Organization should also strive to attain equity for women in the Secretariat. He added that there should be a proper ratio between fixed-term and permanent contracts to ensure the Secretariat's openness and its ability to cope with changing situations.

The representative of Cameroon said the process of restructuring the Secretariat should respect the provisions of the Charter, with emphasis on the equality of States, and preserve the delicate balance between the main bodies of the Organization. The creation of an appropriate department and a separate section for Africa in the United Nations budget were essential in the light of the continent's situation. The department would help monitor the implemantation of programmes and activities for the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Yesterday, the Committee approved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $60 million for the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda (UNAMIR) for four months from 9 December. The need for that authority would arise if the Security Council extended the Mission's mandate beyond the next three weeks. By the terms of the draft, the Assembly would assess $30 million of the amount authorized. It would also express deep concern about the renewal of a contract relating to security services for UNAMIR without international competitive bidding, and urge the Secretary-General to obtain all contractual services through such biddings.

* * *

States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea have held an ad hoc meeting at Headquarters to discuss the question of the deferment of the election of members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The Law of the Sea Convention, which entered into force on 16 November, provides for a meeting of States parties to approve practical arrangements for the establishment of the Tribunal.

According to the Convention, each State party can nominate up to two persons for election to the 21-member Tribunal. It requires that the first election be held within six months of the entry into force of the Convention. The elections must be held at a meeting of States parties convened by the Secretary-General in the case of the first election, and by a procedure agreed to by the States parties for subsequent elections.

Hans Corell, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, said yesterday's meeting was an historic occasion as it was the first meeting of States parties to the Convention since its entry into force. It would decide on practical measures concerning the organization of the Tribunal, which was central to the system of compulsory dispute settlement envisaged in the Convention. He welcomed the participation of States and other entities that had yet to become parties to the Convention and commended the participants on deciding to take action by consensus, whenever possible.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1779
23 November 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ NATO launches air strikes against Serb missile sites around Bihac; Secretary-General says action was necessary and approved by United Nations; Bosnian Government troops battle Bosnian Serbs inside safe area.

+ Security Council extends ONUSAL mandate for final period until 30 April 1995; expresses concern at partial implementation of important elements of El Salvador Peace Accords.

+ Secretary-General has meetings with Presidents of Italy and Egypt in Rome; signs Memorandum of Understanding on establishment of United Nations logistics base in Brindisi.

+ UNMIH advance team should be expanded as United Nations prepares to take over from multinational force in Haiti, Secretary-General says; implementation of Security Council resolution 940 proceeds smoothly.

+ Secretary-General recommends extension of UNDOF mandate for six months; says Force's presence is essential to maintenance of cease-fire between Israel and Syria.

+ General Assembly concludes consideration of Secretary-General's recommendations on agenda for development; selects Poland, Germany, United States and Burkino Faso to propose candidates for vacancies on Joint Inspection Unit.

+ States parties to Law of Sea Convention defer election of members of International Tribunal to 1 August 1996.

* * *

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) today conducted air strikes against surface-to-air missile sites in the Bihac area, according to a United Nations spokesman. Serb forces fired missiles at two British Harrier jets patrolling the area yesterday, and locked their radar on NATO reconnaissance aircraft flying over the sites today. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the NATO action was necessary, and that it was undertaken with the

approval of the United Nations, in accordance with the dual-key approach agreed upon by the two Organizations.

The Secretary-General, who is in Italy, stressed the need to pursue the political process in order to prevent an escalation of the conflict. It is also important to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to guarantee the protection of the United Nations forces in the former Yugoslavia, he said.

Meanwhile, fighting continued between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb infantry southwest of Bihac town, two to three kilometres inside the boundary of the United Nations-defined safe area, the spokesman said. The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, today briefed the Security Council on the latest developments in the area.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for a final period until 30 April 1995. It approved the recommendations by the Secretary-General in his report of 31 October regarding the Mission's implementation of its mandate. The Council also reaffirmed the commitment undertaken by the United Nations to verify full implementation of the Salvadorian Peace Accords. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 961 (1994).

The Council reaffirmed the importance of full and timely impelementation of all aspects of the Peace Accords, including the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth, and appropriate follow-up to the findings of the Joint Group for Investigation of Politically Motivated Illegal Armed Groups. It expressed concern that important elements of the Accords remained only partially implemented, and called on all concerned to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and ONUSAL in their task of verifying implementation by the parties of their commitments.

The Council urged the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to redouble their efforts to comply with the Agreement on a timetable for the implementation of outstanding aspects of the Accords. It asked the Secretary-General to report by 31 March 1995 on ONUSAL's fulfilment and completion of its mandate and on modalities for its withdrawal.

* * *

Continuing his official visit to Italy, the Secretary-General today had a meeting with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro. They exchanged views on Somalia, the peace process in the Middle East and assistance to the Palestinians, and the Naples Conference on Crime. He also met with Defence Minister Cesare Previti and discussed various peace-keeping issues, particularly the situations in the former Yugoslavia and Italy. They then signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Implementation Agreement relating to the establishment of a United Nations logistics base in Brindisi.

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Earlier in the day, the Secretary-General had a meeting with the President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, who was on an official visit to Rome. Their discussions focused on the procedures to be followed for the withdrawal of United Nations troops in Somalia, including the Egyptian forces stationed at Mogadishu airport.

The Secretary-General was later scheduled to visit the United Nations Information Centre office in Rome, and to meet with the staff there. He would also receive a petition from Italian Parliamentarians regarding the establishment of a permanent war crimes tribunal.

* * *

The advance team of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) should be expanded to up to 500 members in preparation for the transition period when the Mission takes over from the multinational force, according to the Secretary-General. The team currently has a strength of 51 military, police and administrative personnel. In a report to the Security Council dated 21 November, he said discussions were underway between the United Nations, the Government of Haiti, the Government of the United States and other interested parties to assure a smooth transition. The issues being addressed included the training of the Haitian police, the timetable for forthcoming legislative elections, and the establishment of a secure and stable environment.

The multinational force has been operating smoothly in implementing Security Council resolution 940 (1994), with few incidents and widespread acceptance by the Haitian population, the Secretary-General noted. As the force has expanded its deployment, the military observers of the UNMIH advance team have enjoyed greater freedom of movement. No acts of intimidation or violence against the United Nations or other international presence have been reported.

The Secretary-General expressed some concern regarding the creation of the new Haitian police. While training had begun, time would be required for the interim police force to reach the strength necessary to enforce law and order. As soon as it was functioning effectively, UNMIH could assist the Haitian Government in sustaining the secure and stable environment to be established during the operation of the multinational force.

* * *

In a report to the Security Council dated 18 November, the Secretary-General recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) be extended for six months until 31 May 1995. He said the situation in the Middle East continued to be potentially dangerous despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, and was likely to remain so until a comprehensive regional settlement was reached. In those circumstances, the continued presence of the Force, which was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and Agreement on Disengagement between Israel and Syria, was essential.

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The Secretary-General went on to say that UNDOF had performed its functions effectively in the last six months, with the cooperation of Israel and Syria. He noted that the Governments of the two countries had agreed to the extension of the Force's mandate.

* * *

Major donors, organizations and programmes should cooperate in supporting well-defined national development strategies arising from responsible democratic processes, the representative of the United States told the General Assembly yesterday. As the Assembly concluded its consideration of the recommendations of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development, he said such cooperation would be a basis for a "spectrum of support" by development assistance organizations.

Cuba said the agenda for development should not merely supplement the Agenda for Peace, but should articulate concrete proposals for the unpostponable development of the third world. The United Nations should focus on long-term development activities that went beyond the struggle against poverty and emergency assistance, he emphasized.

Also yesterday, the Assembly selected Poland, Germany, the United States and Burkino Faso to propose candidates for four vacancies on the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

* * *

The ad hoc meeting of States parties to the Law of the Sea Convention has decided on a one-time deferment to 1 August 1996 of the first election of members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The Tribunal, whose seat will be in Hamburg, Germany, is the Convention's compulsory dispute-settlement mechanism.

The States parties decided that nominations for the International Tribunal would open on 16 May and close on 17 June, with a list of candidates to be circulated by the Secretary-General on 5 July. They also decided that a State in the process of becoming a party to the Convention could nominate candidates, who would remain provisional and would not be included in the Secretary-General's list unless the State had deposited its instruments of ratification or accession before 1 July 1996.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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25 November 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Events in Bihac during the next 24 hours would be decisive, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations tells correspondants; says situation is complex, fluid, and requires keen judgment.

+ Secretary-General continues negotiations and telephone consultations with various leaders in efforts to obtain a cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General arrives in Algeria for meetings with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi; will hold working session with President and Foreign Minister tomorrow.

+ General Assembly adopts resolution endorsing the activities of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

+ Special Rapporteur on Iraq says recent decrees announcing amputation and branding as punishment for petty thievery show there are no human rights in Iraq; calls it is a barbaric regime.

+ The Legal Committee approves draft resolution by which the General Assembly would consider the deletion of the term "enemy State" from the Charter of the United Nations.

* * *

Events in Bihac during the next 24 hours would be decisive, Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, told correspondants at Headquarters today. He said that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) planes were called in to Bihac by United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) to protect United Nations troops after Bosnian Serb forces ended a cease-fire agreement and began shelling the beleaguered town.

Mr. Annan said the planes flew for 60 minutes but initiated no attacks, although several missiles were fired at them with no hits. Both air and ground forces were required to contain the situation and UNPROFOR did not have the forces on the ground to do the job. He stressed that there was a limit to what could be done from the air, without endangering both UNPROFOR troops and

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For information media—not an official record

civilians. The situation was complex, fluid, and required keen judgment, he said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said he was continuing to negotiate and use every means at his disposal to obtain a cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Before leaving Italy today, the Secreatry-General had extensive telephone conversations with various leaders regarding the latest developments, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General had consultations with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and with Bosnian leaders, including President Izetbegovic and Vice-President Ganic. He also consulted with Kofi-Annan, Under-Secretary-General of Peace-Keeping Operations, and with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) military leaders, General de Lapresle and Lieutenant-General Michael Rose.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Algeria today, where he met with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and discussed the country's participation in forthcoming United Nations conferences and events during the Organization's fiftieth year. The question of the Western Sahara was also discussed and the Prime Minister expressed his hope that a settlement on the situation there would be reached soon. They also reviewd the situation in Bihac and the Secretary-General briefed the Prime Minister on his contacts with Bosnian leaders and the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Willy Claes. Views were also exchanged on other peace-keeping operations, including those in Rwanda and Somalia.

The Secretary-General later met with the President of the National Transitional Council, Abdelkader Bensalah, who briefed him on the political situation in Algeria. The President said he hoped that an early settlement of the situation in Westen Sahara would be a crowning achievement of the United Nations next year. Tomorrow, the Secretary-General is scheduled to have a working meeting with the Algerian Foreign Minister, Mohamed Salah Dembri, following which he will attend a luncheon in his honour hosted by the President Liamine Zeroual.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning adoped a resolution endorsing the activities of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, and appealed to all States institutions and organizations to offer financial and other assistance to the Programme. Acting without a vote, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations to its next session on the future role of the Programme, given the changed needs of the country.

Introducing the resolution, the representative of Norway, as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Programme, stressed that one of the Programme's

most important features was its cost-effectiveness. It was also essential to note that there had been an increase in the number of awards and the fields of study not traditionally available to the vast majority of South Africans, such as the medical profession, engineering and all types of advanced sciences. The representative of South Africa said his Government was particularly anxious to see that the Programme continue its activities during the period of fundamental socio-economic transition of his country.

* * *

The slightest sign of disagreement with the Iraqi Government could lead to torture, imprisonment and even loss of life, the Special Rapporteur on Iraq, Max van der Stoel said today. Briefing correspondents at Headquarters, on the human rights situation in that country, he said recent decrees announcing amputation and branding as punishment for petty thievery, showed that there were no human rights in Iraq and that it was a barbaric regime. He described as outright terrorism three suspicious deaths.

Also today, Mr. Van der Stoel presented his report to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee). He called for the United Nations to deploy human rights monitors in Iraq, so that oppressive government agents would know that rights violations would be reported and to give hope to Iraqis who faced constant violations and repression. The Iraqi Government had still not provided concrete information on more than 600 Kuwaitis who disappeared after the Gulf War and an exodus of people from the southern marshes continued, which were being drained of water to facilitate military operations. The report addressed such issues as missing Kuwaiti citizens, alarming conditions among the Marsh Arabs, legal applications of cruel and unusual punishment, political killings and the rights to food and health.

* * *

The Sixth Committee (Legal) voted today to approve a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would consider the deletion of the term "enemy State" from the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee took that action in approving a draft resolution on the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization.

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea told the Committee his Government did not believe that the articles mentioned in the "enemy State" clauses had become obsolete. Japan, which belonged to the enemy States, had neither repudiated past wrongdoings nor made a political commitment that it would never repeat those wrongdoings. Replying, Japan said it had many times expressed its remorse for the sufferings caused during the second world war and declared its commitment to see that it was never repeated.

In other action this morning, the Committee approved without a vote a draft decision by which the Assembly's granting of observer status would be confined to States and those intergovernmental organizations whose activities covered matters of interest to it.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1781
28 November 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to go to Sarajevo on Wednesday; in separate letters to Bosnian leaders, says it is imperative to take all steps to stop hostilities and alleviate suffering.

+ Security Council condemns violations of Bihac safe area and demands immediate withdrawal of Bosnian Serb forces; demands unconditional cease-fire in region with intensified negotiations towards territorial settlement.

+ UNPROFOR cease-fire proposal for Bihac safe area accepted in principle by Bosnian Government; Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations says UNPROFOR commanders have made heroic effort in carrying out United Nations mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General recommends extension of UNAMIR mandate till 9 June 1995; underlines importance of regional efforts by Governments and OAU in cooperation with United Nations to find durable solutions to problems of Rwanda.

+ Secretary-General travels from Algeria to Morocco; to chair second session in Marrakech of Advisory Group for preparation of United Nations fiftieth anniversary.

+ International community and multinational force in Haiti must make disarmament of pockets of resistance there absolute priority, General Assembly told, as it considers draft resolution on democracy and human rights in that country.

+ Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) approves draft resolutions by which General Assembly would condemn use of unaccompanied refugee minors as soldiers and human shields.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will travel to Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Wednesday, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General has sent separate letters to President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadic, in which he said it was imperative that at this moment to take all steps to stop the hostilities and alleviate the suffering of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Secretary-General was last in Sarajevo on 31 December 1992.

* * *

The Security Council has demanded the withdrawal of all Bosnian Serb forces from the Bihac safe area and condemned in the strongest possible terms all violations there, in particular, the "flagrant and blatant" entry of Bosnian Serb forces. In a statement by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States), on Saturday evening, the Council also demanded that all parties agree to an immediate and unconditional cease-fire in the Bihac region, particularly in and around the safe area.

The Council also demanded that all hostile acts across the border between the republics of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina cease immediately and that the "so-called Krajina Serb forces" withdraw immediately from the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council called for an end to hostilities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in pursuit of the territorial settlement proposed by the Contact Group as part of an overall settlement, reiterated its full support for the settlement, and demanded that the Bosnian Serb party accept it unconditionally and in full.

Finally, the Council expressed full support for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in implementing its mandate to deter attacks against safe areas. The Council called upon the parties to ensure freedom of movement for the UNPROFOR, for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and for necessary supplies for the UNPROFOR and for the civilian population throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. The Council said it would monitor compliance with the terms of its statement and react appropriately.

* * *

An UNPROFOR cease-fire proposal for the Bihac safe area had been accepted in principle by the Bosnian Government, according to Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. The Bosnian Serb authorities had not yet given their reponse. The three-point proposal, which was delivered to both parties by the Commander of UNPROFOR forces in Bosnia and Herzogovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, yesterday, involves the demilitarization of the safe area, turning it over to UNPROFOR, and interposing its peace-keepers in the sensitive areas there.

Mr. Annan said the United Nations had not failed in its mandate as a peace-keeper in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It had provided humanitarian assistance to millions of people through two winters, was preparing for a

(more)

third one, and had protected civilian populations in the enclave. Above all, the deployment of UNPROFOR had confined the conflict and prevented it from spilling across the boundaries of the former Yugoslavia.

He went on to stress that the Organization did not have the resources or the mandate to play the role of enforcer and some of the actions it was being asked to undertake were enforcement -- a role which would require between 300,000 to 500,000 troops. It would be imprudent for any commander on the ground to take action that he could not carry through, which placed his troops at risk and which would not necessarily help the situation. An additional 25,000 to 30,000 troops would have been needed to monitor any cease-fire, he noted.

Speaking in support of the UNPROFOR leadership, Mr. Annan said Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, General Bertrand de Lapresle and Lieutenant-General Rose had done a heroic job in pursuing the United Nations mandate in Bosnia. Peace-keepers were usually the first on ground, the last to leave and the first to be criticized, he added. Any decision to change UNPROFOR's mandate had to be taken in the Security Council and in the world's capitals, not by UNPROFOR's commanders on the ground.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) be extended for a further six months to 9 June 1995. In a report to the Security Council, dated 25 November, the Secretary-General said that during that period, UNAMIR would continue to facilitate peace and national reconciliation. It would also continue to support current efforts towards a regional approach to the problems created by the crisis in Rwanda. He underlined the importance of efforts by Governments in the region and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), both among themselves and in cooperation with the United Nations to find durable solutions to Rwanda's problems

The Secretary-General said the creeping militarization of the refugee camps had created a painful dilemna for the international community. It was unacceptable that humanitarian assistance provided for bona fide refugees was being used to threaten, not only the security of the camps, but the stability of Rwanda. He called on the Rwandese Government to translate into concrete action, its assurances to promote conditions conducive to safe and vouluntary repatriation and national reconciliation.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali was in Rabat, Morocco, today where he met with the President of Portugal, Mario Soares. They discussed East Timor, Angola, Western Sahara, Mozambique, the Lockerbie affair and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. President Soares said he would participate in the proposed General Assembly meeting at the Summit level, to be held on 24 October 1995.

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The Secretary-General also met with Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, with whom he discussed the situation in Bosnia, particularly the latest developments in Bihac. They also reviewed the status of the Middle East, including United Nations coordination activities in Gaza, as well as the issue of the islands which are in dispute between the United Arab Emirates and Iran. The Iraq-Kuwait situation was also discussed.

The Secretary-General was received by King Hassan II this afternoon prior to his departure to Marrakech to chair the second session of the Advisory Group for the preparation of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations. The meeting was hosted by Sidi Mohammed, Crown Prince of Morocco.

On Sunday morning, the Secretary-General left Algiers for Tindouf, where he was welcomed at the airport by Algerian authorities, representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) and officials of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). He later held discussions with the Secretary-General of the POLISARIO, Mohamed Abdelaziz on the projected referendum, the Security Council's position on the issue and the question of increasing the number of registration offices. They also reviewed the work of MINURSO and cooperation between the different parties and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Erik Jensen.

The Secretary-General arrived in Laayoune, Morocco, yesterday afternoon, where he was welcomed by the Moroccan authorities and MINURSO personnel. He visited the identification centre in Laayoune, the monument to the dead of MINURSO and met a Korean medical team from MINURSO.

Last night, the Secretary-General left Laayoune for Rabat, where he attended a dinner given in his honour by Abdellatif Filali, Prime Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco. Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, also attended.

* * *

The international community and the multinational force now in Haiti must make disarmament of pockets of resistance there an absolute priority, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Haiti, Claudette Werleigh, told the General Assembly today, as it considered democracy and human rights in that country. The Foreign Minister said that a system of justice must be established, in cooperation with international human rights organizations, to investigate human rights abuses which occurred during the three years of military rule in Haiti.

Introducing a draft resolution on the situation in Haiti, the representative of Peru said the draft would be the first confirmation of support from the international community since the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti. By that draft, the Assembly would urge the international community and governmental and non-governmental organizations to increase their technical, economic and financial cooperation with Haiti in support of its economic and social development efforts. It would also urge

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support to strengthen Haitian institutions responsible for dispensing justice and guaranteeing democracy, respect for human rights, political stability and economic development.

* * *

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) this morning appoved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would condemn the use of unaccompanied refugee minors as soldiers and human shields. The text would have the Assembly call upon the Secretary-General and United Nations agencies to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors in such areas as education, health and psychological rehabilitation.

By another draft, the Assembly would call upon States to fully respect the provisions in the Geneva Conventions and the Convention on the Rights of the Child which give children affected by armed conflicts special protection and treatment. Member States and United Nations agencies would be requested to facilitate humanitarian assistance to children during and in the immediate aftermath of armed conflict.

The Committee also approved three draft resolutions on refugee questions. By one text, the Assembly would call upon the UNHCR to develop a preparatory process leading to the convening of a regional conference, not later than 1996, to address the problems of refugees, displaced persons, other forms of involuntary displacement and returnees in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and neighbouring States.

Another draft resolution on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, would have the Assembly call upon the international community to strengthen UNHCR's emergency response capacity on the basis of its experience in Rwanda, and to continue providing support to Rwandese refugees and the host countries. The Committee also approved a draft decision by which the Assembly would call upon Governments, non-governmental organizations and representatives of indigenous groups to consider making contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1782
29 November 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes Secretary-General to strengthen progressively advance team of UNMIH up to 500 personnel; resolution adopted by 13 votes in favour with two abstentions (the Russian Federation and Brazil).

+ Security Council renews mandate of United Nations force in Golan Heights for further six months; calls for continued peace efforts.

+ Security Council recommends Palau be admitted as new member of United Nations; says action marks culmination of decades long effort to bring self-determination to Trust Territories.

+ Secretary-General to meet tomorrow with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and afterwards with Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic in Sarajevo.

+ Special Representative Akashi meets with contact group in Zagreb; group members to meet with Bosnian Government members and UNPROFOR officials in Sarajevo.

+ Secretary-General calls on international community to deliver assistance it pledged to Palestinian people, as Palestinian Rights Committee meets to mark Day of Solidarity; says infusion of economic resources essential for true and lasting peace.

+ General Assembly adopts resolution reaffirming sovereignty of Comoros over Mayotte; urges France to accelerate negotiations with Comoros Government to ensure effective and prompt return of Mayotte.

+ Legal Committee concludes current session; approves further work towards creation of international criminal court, convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and text on non-navigational uses of watercourses.

+ Draft resolution proclaiming 17 June as World Day to Combat Desertification approved by Economic and Financial Committee.

+ IAEA technical team in Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea to discuss verification measures it will perform there; confirms nuclear facilities in Nyongbyon and Taochon not in operation.

+ Secretary-General expresses sorrow at death of Archbishop of San Salvador; says church leader played influential role in fighting violence and promoting negotiated solution to conflict in his country.

* * *

The Security Council tonight authorized the Secretary-General to strengthen progressively the advance team of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) up to 500 personnel. Resolution 964 (1994) was adopted by 13 votes in favour with two abstentions (the Russian Federation and Brazil).

The Council took that action, in order to facilitate planning of the Mission, identification of conditions required for the transition from the Multi-national Force (MNF) to the UNMIH and preparation for actual transiton, as well as to make good offices available for the achievement of a safe and stable environment.

The Council welcomed the positive developments in Haiti since the deployment of the MNF in peaceful conditions. It also welcomed the establishment of a joint working group to prepare for the transition by the UNMIH's advance team and the MNF. The Secretary-General was requested to inform the Council at regular intervals on increases in the strength of UNMIH's advance team.

* * *

The Security Council today renewed the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another six-months until 31 May 1995. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the May 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces.

By unanimously adopting resolution 962 (1994), the Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement its resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement to the Middle East conflict. It took that action on the basis of the Secretary-General's report which included a recommendation on UNDOF's activities since 26 May, and also asked him to submit, by 31 May 1995, a report on developments, as well as measures taken to implement resolution 338.

In a complementary statement, Council President, Madeleine K. Albright (United States), quoted from the Secretary-General's report, which she said reflected the Council's position. The report states that despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East continued to be potentially dangerous and was likely to remain so, until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem was reached.

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In other action today, the Security Council recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of Palau be admitted to membership in the United Nations. By unanimously adopting resolution (963) 1994, the Council followed a recommendation from the Committee on the Admission of New Members.

In a statement read by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States) the Council underscored the historic importance of the resolution recommending Palau's admission. It said the resolution marks the culmination of an effort sustained over decades to bring self-determination to the Trust Territories in different corners of the world. That successful effort had enabled the peoples of the Trust Territories to take charge of their destiny and assume their place in the community of nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will fly to Sarajevo tomorrow, where he will first meet with officials from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). He will then hold discussions with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Presidency and afterwards at the airport with Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic. Following a press conference at the airport, the Secretary-General is scheduled to return to Paris in the evening.

Today, the Secretary-General arrived in Paris from Morocco, after opening the second meeting in Marrakech of the Advisory Group for the United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary. The meeting reviewed projects and ideas on the anniversary, especially those stressing the role of youth and education, and plans by individual countries. Also attending were Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, and the Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Public Information (DPI), Samir Sanbar.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi met today in Zagreb with members of the Contact Group -- the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and France, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Group was then scheduled to fly on to Sarajevo to meet with representatives of the Bosnian Government as well as with United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officials. The spokesman said although Sarajevo airport has been closed for more than a week, because of the Bosnian Serbs' failure to provide the necessary security guarantees, execeptions would be made for the Secretary-General and Mr. Akashi's planes tomorrow.

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The General Assembly yesterday adopted a resolution reaffirming the sovereignty of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte by a vote of 87 in favour to 2 against (France, Monaco), with 38 abstentions. It also urged France to accelerate negotiations with the Government of the Comoros to ensure the effective and prompt return of the island of Mayotte to that country.

Introducing the resolution, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Comoros, Said Mohamed Sagaf, said that nothing had changed in the actual situation, despite repeated Assembly requests. The demand for the reintegration of Mayotte into the Comoros, he said was rooted in the common race, culture, geography, history and language of the people of the Comoran Archipelago. The representative of France said his Government had spared no effort in search of a just and equitable solution to the problem, in accordance with its own laws.

* * *

The Third Committee (Legal) concluded its current session today, approving a draft resolution by which an ad hoc committee would review issues arising from the International Law Commission's draft statute for an international criminal court. In the light to the review, consideration would be given next year to the convening of an international conference of plenipotentiaries.

In other action, the Committee approved without a vote, a draft resolution by which a working group would meet from 7 to 25 October 1996 to elaborate a framework convention on the non-navigational uses of international watercourses. The draft convention would be based on the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission and comments received by Member Sates. Also approved, was a draft resolution by which the Assembly would accept the Commission's recommendation that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to consider the articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property and to conclude a convention on the subject.

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The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) approved a draft resolution today, by which the General Assembly would proclaim 17 June as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, to be observed beginning in 1995. The draft was approved without a vote. The Committee also heard the introduction of 11 draft texts, seven by Algeria, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China. Three of those seven were also sponsored by the Non-Aligned Movement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called on the international community to deliver the assistance it had already pledged to the Palestinian people. The Secretary-General's message was read to a solemn meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

held at Headquarters, to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

In his message, the Secretary-General said although $670 million had been pledged for 1994, to date less than $200 million had actually reached the occupied territories. Experience had shown that in a post conflict situation, the infusion of economic resources was essential if true and lasting peace was to be secured. It would be tragic if the failure of the international community to match its words with deeds were to jeopardize the peace process at a time when a lasting and comprehensive peace was at last within sight in the Middle East, he added.

General Assembly President, Amara Essy (Cote d'Ivoire) said the United Nations could make an essential and constructive contribution to facilitate the peace process and provide urgently needed economic assistance to the Palestinian people. Noting important developments in the peace process, he warned that the United Nations must be vigilant against any erosion of the agreements reached and be ready to dissipate any hostility and mistrust which continued to alienate the people of the region.

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An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) technical team is in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to discuss verification measures which the IAEA will have to perform at nuclear facilities there. Some measures have already been implemented and others are in the course of implementation. The IAEA team visited the nuclear facilities in Nyongbyon and Taochon and confirmed that those facilities were not in operation and that construction work had stopped. Further discussions are planned on practical implementation matters which are still outstanding.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has received with sadness the news of the death of Monsignor Arturo Rivera i Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, a United Nations spokesman said today. Monsignor Rivera was a courageous and wise Church leader who played an influential role in fighting violence in his country and promoting a negotiated solution to the decade-long armed conflict there. The Secretary-General has extended his condolences to the Monsignor's family and the Catholic Church in El Salvador.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1783
30 November 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General warns Bosnian parties to cooperate with UNPROFOR in order to retain United Nations presence ; expresses disappointment at Bosnian Serb leader's failure to meet him in Sarajevo.

+ Security Council extends UNAMIR mandate for six months until 9 June 1995; decides mission will also contribute to security of International Criminal Tribunal personnel; help establish national police force.

+ Council condemns former Rwandan leaders for preventing repatriation of refugees in camps, particularly in Zaire; requests Secretary-General to consult troop contributors about potential peace-keeping operation.

+ In a presidential statement, Security Council calls on all States to take necessary steps to promote peace in Afghanistan and prevent continued flow of weapons and military supplies to warring parties.

+ Security Council in presidential statement, calls on Bosnian Serbs to accept proposed cease-fire in Bihac to be followed by a cease-fire throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina; welcomes Bosnian Government's acceptance of that proposal.

+ General Assembly establishes ad hoc intergovernmental working group to study principle of 'capacity to pay' as the fundamental criterion in determining assessments to United Nations regular budget.

+ Secretary-General says 1995 is opportunity for States to reaffirm faith in values on which United Nations is based and recall commitment to peace, development, democracy and human rights.

+ Special Political and Decolonization Committee approves 10 draft resolutions on issues concerning UNRWA and on report of Special Committee on Israeil Practices in occupied territories.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed disappointment and surprise at the refusal of Bosnian Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic to meet with him today at Sarajevo airport. In a statement, the Secretary-General said he believed Dr. Karadzic had done his people a great disservice by that action. Earlier, the Secretary-General met with Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic for two hours and they had a frank exchange on the effectiveness of United Nations operations. They also discussed specific action to bring the military situation under control and create conditions for negotiations towards a political settlement.

The Secretary-General said his purpose in coming to Sarajevo was to convey a simple message to both sides. If the Bosnian leaders wanted to retain United Nations assistance and support in ending the war, they must first show a readiness to negotiate and work in good faith to find a common ground. Secondly, they must cooperate with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He warned that unless UNPROFOR was able to carry out its mandate it would be impossible for him to persuade the Security Council to keep it in the former Yugoslavia.

Because of Dr. Karadzic's failure to meet with him, the Secretary-General said he had been unable to press the Bosnian Serb leader to lift the "unacceptable restrictions" being placed on UNPROFOR's personnel and convoys, including the resupply of the Bangladeshi Battalion in Bihac. Another concern was the Bosnian Serb deployment of anti-aircraft systems which were impeding the humanitarian airlift. Concluding, the Secretary-General called on the Bosnian leaders to live up to their responsibilities and make it possible for the international community to help them bring peace to their peoples.

* * *

The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) for a further six months until 9 June 1995. In unanimously adopting resolution 965 (1994) the Council reaffirmed that UNAMIR would continue to contribute to the security and protection of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in the country, including through the establishment and maintenance of secure humanitarian areas; the distribution of relief supplies and humanitarian operations. UNAMIR would also exercise its good offices to help achieve national reconciliation within the framework of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

The Council also decided to expand UNAMIR's mandate to include responsibility for contributing to the security of personnnel of the International Criminal Tribunal and human rights officers, including full time protection for the Prosecutor's office. The Mission would also assist in the establishment and training of a new, integrated national police force. The Council strongly urged the Rwandan Government to continue cooperating with UNAMIR in the implementation of its mandate and in particular in ensuring unimpeded access to all areas in the country by UNAMIR forces, personnel of the International Tribunal and human rights officers.

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The Council called on the international community to provide resources needed to meed the immediate needs of the Government directly or through the Trust Fund established by its resolution 925 (1994). It also requested the Secretary-General to report to it on UNAMIR's discharge of its mandate, the safety of populations at risk, the humanitarian situation and progess towards repatriation of refugees. It also asked him to recommend possible steps that the United Nations could take to promote effective mine clearance.

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The Security Council tonight condemned the actions being taken by the former Rwandan leaders, government forces and militia to prevent the repatriation of the refugees in the camps, particularly in Zaire. It also condemned the ongoing interference by those groups in the provision of humanitarian relief. In a statement by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States) the Council expressed deep concern that the interference had already led to the withdrawal of some non-governmental agencies responsible for the distribution of relief supplies within the camps.

The Council said it was alarmed at indications that those same groups and individuals might be preparing for an armed invasion of Rwanda. It deplored the fact that food distributed by relief agencies for those in the camps was apparently being misappropriated for that purpose. The Council condemned all such actions and warned that they would only reinforce the determination of the international community to ensure that they are brought to justice.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to consult troop contributing countries to assess their willingness to participate in a potential peace-keeping operation to create secure areas in the refugee camps. It also requested the Secretary-General to provide a detailed description of the rules of engagement, objectives and costs of such an operation as soon as possible

* * *

Also this evening, the Security Council called on all States to take the necessary steps to promote peace in Afghanistan. It also called on them to prevent the continued flow of weapons, ammunition and military supplies to the warring parties in Afghanistan and to put an end to the destructive conflict in that country. In a Presidential statement by Madeleine Albright (United States) the Council supported the Special Mission to Afghanistan led by Special Representative Mahmoud Mestiri, and its broad-based consultations with Afghan representatives. It also supported its proposals to bring about an end to factional fighting, institute a process of political reconciliation and begin the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

The Security Council welcomed the acceptance by the warring parties and other Afghan representatives of a step-by-step process of national reconciliation through the establishment of a fully representative and broad-based Authoritative Council which would: negotiate and oversee a ceasefire; establish a national security force to collect and safeguard heavy weapons and provide for security throughout the country; and form a

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transitional government to lay the groundwork for a democratically chosen government, possibly utilizing traditional decision-making structures such as a Grand Assembly.

* * *

The Security Council last night called on the Bosnian Serbs to accept a proposed cease-fire in the Bihac region, to be followed by a cease-fire throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, it welcomed the Bosnian Government's acceptance of that proposal. In a statement last night by its President Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council said it remained determined to fully support the efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the conflict consistent with its previous resolutions and the proposals of the Contact Group - the United states, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

The Council expressed its support for the efforts of United Nations officials to stabilize the situation in and around the safe area of Bihac. It noted with satisfaction the proposal put to the parties by the United Nations officials for an immediate and unconditional cease-fire in the Bihac region to be followed by a cease-fire throughout Bosnia; the interposition of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Bihac safe area; a complete demilitarization of the safe area involving the withdrawal of all military forces and the opening of corridors for humanitarian relief.

The Council expressed its support for the Secretary-General's trip to Sarajevo today, and demanded that all parties and others concerned cooperate fully with his efforts to stabilize the situation in and around the safe area of Bihac and throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensure the security of UNPROFOR as it implements its mandate.

* * *

The year 1995 should be an opportunity for every Member State to reaffirm its faith in the values on which the United Nations was based and recall its commitment to peace, development, democracy and human rights, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros said yesterday. The Secretary-General was addressing the opening in Marrakech of the second session of the Advisory Group for the preparation of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary.

The Secretary-General said that taking stock of the past and charting prospects for the future was particularly important as the world had witnessed great upheavals in a short period of time. In a sense, the United Nations was a magnifying mirror of international public opinion, reflecting the aspirations and anxieties of States and peoples. At times that generated confused and contradictory feelings towards the Organization.

The Advisory Group must respond by first making clear that the principles of the United Nations Charter were the only foundation on which to build the

international society of the future. The anniversary was also a time to share ideas on how the Organization's actions could be brought further into line with the requirements and needs of today's world.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday established an ad hoc intergovernmental working group to study the principle of 'capacity to pay' as the fundamental criterion in determining the scale of assessments for contributions to the Organization's regular budget. By the terms of the resolution, adopted without a vote, the Assembly decided that the group of experts in economics, finance and statistics and related fields would submit a report by 15 May 1995 and that it would be funded within existing financial resources.

The Assembly adopted a second resolution, also without a vote, which appropriated to the Special Account for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) more than $163 million gross for operations from 5 April to 9 December 1994. The Assembly apportioned an additional $100.7 million gross for the period 5 April to 9 December.

Also yesterday, as it began consideration of the question of Palestine, the Assembly was told that extremism and political instability was widespread in the Middle East because of the slow progress in the peace process. The observer for Palestine said Israel's intransigent attitude led to the belief that it did not wish to establish a comprehensive and just peace. Israel said while events and agreements were leading the Palestinians to assume responsibility for their own lives, groups such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad continued to embrace violence, aimed at derailing peace, stability and development. Assistance from the donor countries was crucial.

* * *

The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) today approved draft resolutions on a wide range of issues concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It also approved drafts on the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

By one of three drafts on the report of the Special Committee, the Assembly would commend the Committee for its impartiality and demand that Israel cooperate with it. It would deplore Israel's policies and practices which violate the human rights of the Palestinian and other Arabs in the occupied territories. The Special Committee would be asked to continue to ensure that the welfare and human rights of those under occupation were safeguarded.

By a text on Israeli practices in the occupied territories, the Assembly would reaffirm that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal and an obstacle to a comprehensive settlement. It would call on Israel to facilitate the return of the remaining deportees to the occupied

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Palestinian territory and to accelerate the release of all remaining Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.

By one of seven draft resolutions on UNRWA, the Assembly would ask the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to protect Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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1 December 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Paris, continues to coordinate intensive diplomatic efforts to give new momentum to negotiations for peaceful settlement to conflict in former Yugoslavia.

+ Special Representative Akashi to visit Sarajevo and Pale tomorrow, to pursue cease-fire efforts; UNPROFOR Commander Rose discusses detention of United Nations military personnel with Bosnian Serbs.

+ Secretary-General issues "call to arms" in the battle against AIDS; notes serious shortcomings in efforts so far; says "planetary emergency" demands coordinated global action and new social response.

+ United States Surgeon-General Joycelyn Elders addresses World AIDS Day panel at United Nations Headquarters; challenges world leaders to devote resources to research, treatment and education.

+ Economic and Financial Committee approves eight draft resolutions including ones on Human Development Report, multilateral trade; industrial development and anti-malaria activities.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee told women's unacceptably low level of participation in decision-making process calls into question basic principles of democracy.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was in Paris today, where he continued to follow closely and with great concern, the situation in the former Yugoslavia. He sent Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to Brussels, to brief Willy Claes, the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on yesterday's discussions in Sarajevo. Mr. Goulding will report to the Secretary-General tonight on his meeting which was held in the framework of the coordination between the United Nations and NATO. Earlier today, the Secretary-General addressed the AIDS summit meeting.

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General will travel to Geneva, from where he will continue intensive diplomatic efforts to give new momentum to negotiations for a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, specifically a cease-fire in Bosnia and especially in Bihac. He will be in contact with

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For information media—not an official record

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and Thorvald Stoltenberg, co-chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, who will participate in the Ministerial Contact Group's meeting on Bosnia in Brussels tomorrow. The Secretary-General is scheduled to address Monday's opening in Budapest of the Meeting of the Heads of States or Government Conference on the Security and Cooperation in Europe.

* * *

Special Representative Yashushi Akashi will travel to Sarajevo and Pale tomorrow, at the Secretary-General's request, to pursue efforts for a cease-fire agreement between the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A spokesman for the Organization said the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, was already in Pale talking to the Bosnian Serbs about the cease-fire proposal delivered to them last Sunday. He also held discussions on the detention of over 450 UNPROFOR personnel.

Meanwhile, there was an unusual military development near the Bosnian border yesterday, when a fire fight broke out between Croatian military forces and Croatian Serbs across the zone of separation, the spokesman said. In Sarjevo, there were further reports of Sagger missiles hitting the Interior Ministry in the center of town.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today issued a "call to arms" in the battle against the AIDS epidemic. In his opening address to the AIDS Summit meeting in Paris, the Secretary-General said he was not issuing a warning, but declaring a "planetary emergency". Despite the considerable resources committed to the fight against the epidemic over the years, there had been serious shortcomings in the international community's action. Often, there was no linkage between global strategies and national efforts, and action was hampered by conflicting technical considerations and competition.

The Secretary-General said the way forward was to simultaneously encourage medical research, improve the coordination of international action and offer a new social response. Improving international coordination against AIDS meant taking a firmer stand on ethical principles and respect for fundamental rights, particularly those of women, on the voluntary nature of testing and on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the decision-making process.

Stressing that the fight against AIDS also involved a cultural challenge, the Secretary-General said information and education were essential to a genuine AIDS-prevention policy, yet discussion was often impeded by cultural, religious, ideological and social barriers. The United Nations, States and non-governmental organizations must contribute to changing people's attitudes, which meant adapting information to different cultural contexts, to various social milieus and to different generations.

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World leaders must continue to devote resources to research, treatment and education to defeat the AIDS epidemic, Joycelyn Elders, Surgeon General of the United States told a World AIDS Day panel at United Nations Headquarters today. She said leaders must also continue to remind their people that the disease could be thwarted through education, caring and hope.

Dr. Elders challenged communities everywhere to recognize that government alone could not defeat HIV/AIDS. She also challenged families to recognize that the disease gave everyone the opportunity to show unconditional love, to defeat fears and prejudices, to care for those who were suffering and give hope to those who did not see a future.

* * *

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) today approved eight draft resolutions, including one by which the General Assembly would affirm that the annual publication, Human Development Report, was a separate and distinct exercise not an official United Nations document. The Assembly would welcome the decision of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to improve the publication's quality and accuracy.

By another draft, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to report at the fifty-first session in 1996 on institutional developments to strengthen international organizations in the area of multilateral trade. The Committee also approved a draft by which the Assembly would request the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to formulate measures to improve the industrial sector in Africa in light of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) would be invited to assist with preventive action against malaria and to elaborate a plan of action on all related activities in that field, under the terms of another draft resolution approved by the Committee.

* * *

Women's level of participation in decision-making, and power-sharing between men and women was still unacceptably low, Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women said today. She told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) that the situation called into question the basic principles of democracy. The programme of action expected to be enacted at the World Conference on Women in Beijing next September would have empty results if there was no commitment to implement it.

The Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Noeleen Heyzer, said the "feminization of poverty" had become a global phenomenon with women making up at least 60 per cent of the world's 1 billion rural poor. Displaced women were caught in a double-bind of being exposed to new vulnerabilities, while still having to fulfil their responsibilities as care-givers. Conflicts had a particular impact on women who suffered from rape. During war there was no victory for them no matter which side won, she added.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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2 December 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Geneva, meets with Justice Richard Goldstone, Chief Prosecutor of International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia; continues high level diplomatic efforts to reach negotiated settlement to conflict in former Yugoslavia.

+ General Assembly proclaims 1995 as World Year of People's Commemoration of Victims of Second World War; to hold special solumn meeting on 18 October to commemorate sacrifices caused by War.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Commmittee introduces draft proposing moratorium on pending executions and abolition of death penalty.

+ Special Political and Decolonization Committee concludes work by asking General Assembly to call on Israel to rescind decision to impose its laws and jurisdiction in occupied Syrian Golan.

+ In message to mark International Day of Disabled Persons, Secretary-General says societies which accommodate human diversity respect fundemental freedoms and mobilize people's full potential.

+ More than 80 countries have national committees on United Nations fiftieth anniversary; General Assembly to hold solemn session; week-long commemorative activities planned in San Francisco.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Geneva today, where he plans to give priority to continued efforts to reach a negotiated settlement to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He met with the Justice Richard Goldstone, Chief Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Tomorrow, Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, is expected to arrive in Geneva to meet with the Secretary-General.

Later today, the Secretary-General met with the leader of the Turkish Cypriots, Rauf Denktash at his request.

On Sunday, the Secretary-General will travel to Budapest. He will meet with Hungarian President Arpad Goncz and later will attend a working dinner with the Hungarian political Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry. He will deliver an opening address to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) on Monday.

* * *

In Sarajevo today, Sagger missiles struck the building where Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, and United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) commanders, General Bertrand de Lapresle and Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, were meeting with Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic. According to a United Nations spokesman, three missiles also hit the Parliament building yesterday. Mr. Akashi later went to Pale, where he was expected to meet with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. Yesterday in Pale, Lieutenant-General Rose reached an agreement with the Bosnian Serbs on the release of three UNPROFOR convoys in eastern Bosnia.

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen attended a signing ceremony in Zagreb today of an economic agreement between the Croatian Government and the Croatian Serbs. The agreement covers the opening of routes, rail lines and other communications as well as the restoration of utilities.

* * *

The General Assembly today proclaimed 1995 as World Year of People's Commemoration of the Victims of the Second World War and decided to hold a special solumn meeting on 18 October to commemorate the sacrifices caused by the War. Introducing the resolution, which was adopted without a vote, the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States, said the draft reiterated the willingness of nations to overcome the vestiges of war and create a new atmosphere of international harmony. The representative of Israel said the war launched by the Nazis shattered the entire world and directed special fury against the Jewish people. He called on the United Nations to fight fanaticism, fascism and dictatorship.

In other action today, the Assembly adopted a number of resolutions, on the coordination of humanitarian assistance. They included two texts, also adopted without a vote, urging States and financial institutions to help rehabilitate the Rwandan economy and to provide economic and technical assistance to countries receiving Rwandan refugees. Other resolutions adopted dealt with: assistance to States affected by the imposition of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); the financing of the Palestinian police force, and special assistance to Burundi. The Assembly voted to adopt a resolution which reaffirmed the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) yesterday concluded its work by asking the Assembly to call on Israel to "rescind forthwith" its decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan. By the terms of a draft resolution, approved by a vote of 108 in favour to 1 against, with 13 abstentions, the Assembly would also call on Israel to stop establishing its settlements in the occupied Golan.

In addition, the Assembly would call on Israel to stop its efforts to change the physical character, demography, and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan. The Assembly would determine that all Israeli legislative and administrative measures purporting to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Golan have no legal effect. Israel would also be called on to stop imposing Israeli citizenship and identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan and to desist from its repressive measures against the population there.

* * *

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday introduced a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would encourage States that have not abolished the death penalty to consider a moratorium on pending executions. The Assembly would take that action to ensure that the principle that no State should dispose of any human life would be universally affirmed by the year 2000.

The Assembly would call upon States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Countries that have not yet abolished the death penalty would be asked to consider the progressive restriction of the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed and to exclude insane persons from capital punishment.

Introducing the draft, the representative of Italy, said there was an attempt under way to block a vote by using a "no-action motion" in order to allow some countries to avoid pronouncing themselves on the draft. Each country should cast aside delaying tactics and vote its conscience, he added.

* * *

Disabled persons challenged the world to grow, and to build a society which advanced freedoms and addressed the needs and contributions of all its members, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today. In a message to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons, he stresssed that a society which accommodated human diversity not only respected fundamental freedoms, but also mobilized the full potential of all its people.

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The Secretary-General said that United Nations efforts since the 1970s had brought tangible results but more was required. Adequate resources and firm political resolve were needed to transform into reality the requirements made by the World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons adopted in 1982. Through upcoming conferences and in other ways, the Organization must continue to integrate disability concerns into the wider effort to construct a new vision for development and framework for development cooperation.

* * *

More than 80 countries have established national committees to plan activities to celebrate the United Nations fiftieth anniversary, the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary was told yesterday. Committee Chairman Richard Butler (Australia), said that a solemn session of the General Assembly would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 24 October and a Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary was expected at the session.

The city of San Francisco planned a week of activities to mark the anniversary, including the signing of a commemorative document on the Charter, Mr. Butler said. Referring to the duration of speeches by Heads of State and Government during the commemorative session, he noted there might be approximately 150 of them and suggested each leader present an abridged version of his or her statement, with publication of the full text later.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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5 December 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Cooperation between United Nations and CSCE is vital to maintenance of peace and security in Europe, Secretary-General tells Conference summit in Budapest.

+ Secretary-General leaves Budapest for Montreal with Canadian Prime Minister, after meetings with Czech President and United Kingdom Foreign Secretary.

+ Security Council says any unilateral act to establish sovereign Abkhaz entity violates commitments assumed in search for political settlement of Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

+ Russian Federation vetoes draft resolution by which Security Council would have reconfirmed measures regulating transport of goods between Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council redefine safe-area regime in order to protect civilians and ensure humanitarian deliveries; says areas should be clearly delineated and completely demilitarized.

+ Agreement on re-establishment of essential services in Croatia is step towards peace in former Yugoslavia, Secretary-General says.

+ General Assembly commends efforts of President Aristide and governmental bodies to lead Haiti out of crisis; urges international community to increase support for Haitian development.

+ United Nations opens Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance.

+ Asia-Africa Forum to be held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December.

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For information media—not an official record

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is vital to the maintenance of regional peace and security, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In an address to the CSCE summit meeting in Budapest, Hungary, today, he described the relationship between the Organization and the Conference as privileged. He noted that the Conference had more than 50 members, including four of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The Secretary-General recalled that the United Nations and the CSCE had signed a framework agreement on cooperation and coordination in May 1993. In the course of operations, CSCE and United Nations officials had learned how to work together more effectively. In The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, they had been able to implement an important agreement on preventive diplomacy at a very early stage.

In the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations was clearly playing the leading role, he continued. However, the CSCE had made important contributions. It had dispatched missions to avoid an extension of the conflict to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as it had earlier done in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina. The CSCE had also established an office at Sarajevo, to which the United Nations provided logistical support. He added that the situation in the former Yugoslavia could only be resolved through negotiation and dialogue.

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Following his address to the CSCE summit, the Secretary-General had a meeting with United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. They discussed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Bihac. The Secretary-General informed Mr. Hurd on the contacts being pursued with the two sides by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, with a view to obtaining a cease-fire and a stabilization of the military situation. The Secretary-General also met with Czech President Vaclav Havel. They discussed the celebrations for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the Czech Republic's role in the Organization, particularly regarding its membership in the Security Council.

The Secretary-General later co-chaired a meeting of representatives of the CSCE and international organizations. That meeting was convened by Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino; Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs, incoming Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE; and Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti. He later left Budapest for Montreal with Prime Minister Jacques Chretien of Canada, where he will participate in ceremonies marking the anniversary of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General had meetings with Hungarian President Arpad Gonez, Belgian Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbroucke, and Georgian Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaidze.

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The Security Council has said that any unilateral effort to establish "a sovereign Abkhaz entity" would violate commitments assumed by that side in the search for a comprehensive political settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), on Friday night, the Council expressed deep concern over a 26 November statement attributed to the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, relating to the establishment of such an entity. The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the Republic's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Council called on all parties, particularly the Abkhaz side, to make substantive progress in negotiations for a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict, including on the political status of Abkhazia. Expressing great concern at the continued obstruction of the return of refugees and displaced persons, it called on the Abkhaz party to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to ensure their speedy and organized voluntary return.

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At another Security Council meeting on Friday night, a draft resolution which would have reconfirmed resolutions regulating the transport of goods between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina was vetoed by the Russian Federation. Thirteen Council members voted in favour of the draft, while China abstained.

The Russian representative, Sergei Lavrov, said adoption of the "untimely" draft would have wiped out the recent economic agreement between the Krajina Serbs and the Croatian Government and undermined the negotiating process. Instead, he went on to say, the positive approach of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should be encouraged by a suspension of resolution 820 (1993).

The Permanent Representative of China, Li Zhaoxing, said that while he supported the provision of the draft that called for unimpeded access for United Nations personnel to perform their tasks, he could not agree that Chapter VII of the Charter should be invoked on the question of sanctions against the former Yugoslavia. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ivan Misic, said the draft resolution would have sent the message that strategic resources like fuel directed to the so-called Krajina Serbs could not be used for war pursuits and violations of international law, nor be used for the benefit of the Bosnian Serb party. Council members who failed to support the draft would be associating themselves with Knin and Pale authorities, he added.

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the Security Council redefine the regime of safe areas with a view to protecting the civilian population and ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a report dated 1 December, he said the safe areas should be clearly

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delineated and completely demilitarized. Demilitarization should be accompanied by the cessation of hostilities and provocative acts in and around the areas. He added that the ability of one party to maintain troops and weapons within a safe area created an unstable situation and drew attacks from the opposing party.

Until complete demilitarization could be achieved, the party controlling a safe area should be obliged to refrain from attacks or provocative actions directed against targets outside the area, the Secretary-General continued. No weapons or weapons systems, or military headquarters or installations, should be located within a safe area. Meanwhile, complete freedom of movement for the local population, as well as for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and humanitarian agencies, should be guaranteed.

UNPROFOR should not be mandated to enforce compliance with the safe-area regime, the Secretary-General said. The use of force that would be necessary to implement such a mandate would prevent the Force from carrying out its overall mandate in the former Yugoslavia, turn it into a combatant, and further destabilize the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He went on to say that the Council should demand that all parties agree without delay on certain concrete steps to ensure compliance with the modified safe-area regime. It should also mandate UNPROFOR to define the operational boundaries of the safe areas with or without the agreement of the parties.

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An agreement on economic issues concluded between the Government of Croatia and the Krajina Serb authorities will have a beneficial political effect on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, according to the Secretary-General. The agreement was signed by the parties and the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, in Zagreb and Knin on Friday. It provides for the re-establishment of water and electricity services, the re-opening in Croatia of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway, and the re-opening of the oil pipeline through the Krajina.

In a statement to the press in Geneva on Saturday, the Secretary-General noted that the economic agreement followed the agreement on a cessation of hostilities which had been concluded last March and which continued to be generally observed. It was thus a second step towards a resolution of the conflict in Croatia, and was something for which the Organization has been working since the establishment of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in 1992.

The Secretary-General said the next step was to prepare a negotiating process on the outstanding political issues, and urged the parties to cooperate with the Co-Chairmen in that endeavour. He went on to say that the Krajina Serb authorities had agreed on Friday to withdraw their military personnel from the Bihac pocket in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and stressed that that should be done without delay.

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The General Assembly today paid tribute to the efforts of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and governmental bodies to lead Haiti out of crisis. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly urged the international community and organizations to increase their technical, economic and financial cooperation to support Haitian development, and efforts to strengthen institutions guaranteeing democracy and respect for human rights. It also requested the speedy return to the country of all members of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH).

Also today, as the Assembly discussed restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the representative of India presented the results of informal consultations on funding of operational activities for development. Member States had agreed that substantially increased resources, provided on a predictable and assured basis, were needed to fund those activities, he said. An over-reliance on a few major donors made the current funding system vulnerable.

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A Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, established by the Secretary-General, has been officially opened. Contributions received will support United Nations activities relating to land-mines, including clearance, surveys, training and mine-awareness education. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs is responsible for overall management and implementation of the Fund.

In a report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General said such a fund would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the international community's response to mine problems. He pointed out that more than 110 million land-mines were scattered in 64 countries, and that more than 800 people were killed by them every month. "Land-mines may be one of the most widespread, lethal and long-lasting forms of pollution we have yet encountered, and we are currently losing the battle to protect innocent civilians from their effects", he added.

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"Promoting Sustainable Development in Africa: Sharing Experience with Asia" will be the main theme of the Asia-Africa Forum, which will take place in Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December. The Forum is part of the follow-up to the 1993 Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It is being organized by the Governments of Japan and Indonesia, the Global Coalition for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries.

The Forum aims to stimulate cooperation between Asian and African countries through direct dialogue between decision makers and institutions. It will also enhance South-South cooperation, building on the results of the Tokyo Conference.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1787
6 December 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP says 150,000 people in Bihac pocket face serious food shortages; fighting escalates in Velika Kladusa as Croatian Serbs continue cross-border shelling.

- United Nations, OAS and Haitian Government launch appeal for $77 million to provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for Haiti.

- United Nations seeks $42 million to meet emergency humanitarian needs of 600,000 people affected by conflict in Tajikistan.

- General Assembly discusses developments relating to United Nations Law of Sea Convention; Fiji says new legal regime reflects aspirations of all members of international community.

- Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves draft decisions which would authorize Secretary-General to commit $248 million to maintain UNPROFOR, UNOSOM II and UNDOF to end of year.

- General Assembly to launch Decade of World's Indigenous People on Thursday; indigenous representatives from around world to address meeting.

- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and DPI to host special event on Friday to commemorate upcoming Decade for Human Rights Education.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that over 150,000 people are facing serious food shortages as a result of the fighting in the Bihac pocket. They have been effectively cut off from food aid for over five months, and only two convoys carrying WFP-supplied food have reached the pocket in that time. The Programme is pre-positioning an emergency supply of 100 tonnes of high-energy biscuits in Zagreb, which will be transported into the pocket as soon as convoys are given clearance.

Fighting for control of the town of Velika Kladusa in the Bihac pocket escalated yesterday and again today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted the continued use of tanks, heavy artillery and mortars from across

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For information media—not an official record

the border in Croatia, and added that incendiary shells had been fired into areas controlled by the Bosnian Government.

Meanwhile, United Nations military observers patrolling the edge of the Gorazde exclusion zone came under direct small-arms fire from Bosnian Serb positions. The observers, who were unarmed, were pinned down for three hours, but managed to withdraw without suffering any casualties.

The spokesman expressed concern regarding the situation of a group of United Nations military observers detained by Bosnian Serb forces at Banja Luka airport. One observer, a Jordanian major, has a serious heart condition, but the Bosnian Serbs said they would only permit a medical evacuation if the United Nations provided a replacement hostage. Two military observers went to Banja Luka -- one to replace the Jordanian major and one to drive the evacuation vehicle -- but both were seized. Condemning the violation of the evacuation agreement and the blatantly inhumane treatment of the seriously ill observer, the spokesman stressed that those responsible would be held accountable for their actions.

* * *

The Haitian Government, the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) today launched an appeal for $77 million for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Haiti. The appeal, which covers a six-month period, differs from traditional consolidated interagency appeals in that it seeks to alleviate the suffering of the poor while helping to revive Government capacity. It underlines the overriding importance of socio-economic revival for political stability in Haiti.

The appeal was prepared jointly by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in close consultation with the Government of Haiti, donors, United Nations programmes and agencies, and non-governmental organizations. It is being launched simultaneously at the office of Prime Minister Smarck Michel in Port-au-Prince and at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. The United Nations system is represented in Washington by Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, and in Port-au-Prince by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen.

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The United Nations today launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $42 million to meet the emergency humanitarian needs of some 600,000 people affected by the civil conflict in Tajikistan. The appeal, which covers 1995, targets pensioners, invalids and widows with children -- many of whom are returnees and internally displaced persons -- for emergency food aid.

The appeal is the result of extensive efforts by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs coordinator in Tajikistan and the Field Coordination Unit established in Dushanbe this year, as well as by the inter-agency mission which visited the country in October. Despite signs of improvement in conflict-affected areas, the deterioration of the Tajik economy has severely

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affected the living conditions of the entire population, and could lead to emergency situations around the country.

* * *

The General Assembly met today to consider developments regarding the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which entered into force on 16 November. Introducing a draft resolution on the Convention, the representative of Fiji said the legal regime established by it reflected the aspirations of all members of the international community. The Convention had already become a cornerstone for the conduct of relations among States on maritime issues, he added.

The draft introduced today would have the Assembly call on all States to become parties to the Convention and the Agreement on implementation of Part XI -- relating to deep seabed mining provisions -- in order to achieve universal participation. While reaffirming the unified character of the Convention, the Assembly would call on States to harmonize their national legislation with its provisions and to ensure their consistent application.

The representative of the United States said that while lack of consensus regarding mineral resources of the deep seabed had threatened wide acceptance of the treaty, the conclusion of the Agreement on Part XI had opened the way for its universal acceptance. It was important for the International Seabed Authority to launch its work in a cost-effective and efficient fashion, consistent with the evolutionary approach that had been agreed upon.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved draft decisions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $248 million gross to maintain three peace-keeping operations up to the end of the year. Approved yesterday without a vote, the drafts would provide $140 million for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for December; some $106 million for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for November and December; and $2.7 million for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for December.

The drafts were approved after the United Nations Controller, Yukio Takasu, explained the urgent need for action to maintain the missions whose financial authority had recently expired. The action was taken pending the Fifth Committee's review of the reports on those missions from the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

Also yesterday, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, Karl Theodor Paschke, said he would help the Secretary-General change the Organization's management culture and promote the concept of value for money. In his first appearance before the Fifth Committee since taking

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office last month, he said he would serve as "a bit of an auditor, a bit of a controller, a bit of an evaluator, a bit of an inspector and monitor, and a bit of an investigator".

Mr. Paschke went on to say that he would strengthen cooperation between the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit in the audit function. The Office's new investigation unit had installed procedures for getting confidential information, he added.

* * *

The General Assembly will launch the Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004) at a special ceremony on 8 December. Among those participating in the ceremony will be Jose Ayala Lasso, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Coordinator of the Decade; and Erika-Irene Daes, Chairman of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Indigenous representatives from around the world will also address the meeting.

The theme for the Decade, which was proclaimed by the Assembly last December, is "Indigenous people: a new relationship -- partnership in action". The Decade constitutes a time-frame for the United Nations, governments and non-governmental organizations to give priority to the role of indigenous people as decision makers and beneficiaries of development activities.

* * *

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information (DPI) will host a special event to commemorate the upcoming International Decade for Human Rights Education in the Economic and Social Council Chamber on 9 December. The event will also observe Human Rights Day, 10 December.

The General Assembly is expected to proclaim the Decade later this month. For almost 50 years, the United Nations has promoted respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms by setting standards, strengthening human rights institutions and facilitating international dialogue and cooperation. In that regard, the Organization recognizes the importance of education and dissemination of information aimed at creating a universal culture of human rights.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1788
7 December 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Montreal, says United Nations has contingency plans for withdrawal of UNPROFOR; stresses need to avoid pessimism, citing continuing efforts to achieve negotiated settlement in former Yugoslavia.

+ Contact Group says its territorial proposal for Bosnia and Herzegovina remains basis for settlement, but could be adjusted by agreement of parties; supports continuation of UNPROFOR, if risks do not become unacceptable, and strict enforcement of Security Council resolutions.

+ UNPROFOR reports generally stable situation in former Yugoslavia, despite continued fighting in Bihac pocket; Bosnian Serbs release sick Jordanian detainee in exchange for Russian volunteer.

+ General Assembly calls on all States to become party to Law of Sea Convention and implementation Agreement on deep seabed mining provisions; resolution adopted by 130 votes in favour to 1 against, with 7 abstentions.

+ Withdrawal of Russian forces from Baltic States was historic event which reinforced security in Europe, Latvian Prime Minister tells General Assembly.

+ No-action motion on draft resolution on capital punishment defeated in Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee by 65 votes in favour to 74 against, with 20 abstentions.

+ Secretary-General appoints Alvaro de Soto Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, effective 1 January; Rosario Green to serve in Secretary-General's Cabinet as Special Adviser.

+ Multinational Force reports significant progress in establishment of secure and stable environment in Haiti; notes deployment of Interim Security Force and international police monitors in outlying areas.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2 billion as of 30 November; $500 million owed to regular budget and $1.5 billion to peace-keeping.

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+ Pledges totalling $135 million announced for UNRWA's 1995 programmes for Palestinian people.

+ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights holds discussion on education and public information activities; High Commissioner for Human Rights says United Nations must teach common language of humanity to people everywhere.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was in Montreal today, where he addressed the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary. He was expected to return to New York later in the day.

In remarks to correspondents, the Secretary-General confirmed that there were contingency plans for the withdrawal of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). He stressed that the Organization was working hard for a negotiated settlement in the former Yugoslavia, but warned that the Security Council might decide to withdraw the Force if no progress were made. However, he also stressed that it was important to avoid pessimism.

The Secretary-General defended UNPROFOR's record, pointing out that it had negotiated a cease-fire between the Serbs and Croats and provided humanitarian assistance to refugees, and that the hostilities had been confined geographically. He went on express thanks for Canada's important contributions to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

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The Contact Group has reaffirmed that its territorial proposal for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its commitment to the Republic's integrity and sovereignty, remain the basis for a settlement there. However, in a text issued on 2 December, the Foreign Ministers of the Group said the territorial proposal could be adjusted by mutual agreement between the parties. They added that constitutional arrangements agreeable to the parties would have to be drawn up that preserved Bosnia and Herzegovina's integrity and allowed equitable and balanced arrangements for the Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb entities. The text was transmitted by the members of the Group -- France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States -- in a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 5 December.

The Contact Group expressed deep concern about the recent intensification of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly around Bihac. It stressed the need for an immediate cease-fire in the safe area, adding that a solution to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia could only be achieved at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield.

The Group stated that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was performing a mission of great importance, and that it should continue, provided that the risks did not become unacceptable. It supported UNPROFOR's

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efforts to pursue demilitarization, particularly of the Bihac safe area and Sarajevo. It demanded immediate freedom of movement for the Force and for humanitarian supplies throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Group also reconfirmed its full support for strict enforcement of relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions taken in pursuance of them.

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The situation in the former Yugoslavia was generally stable today, despite continued fighting in the Bihac pocket, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, British peace-keepers on foot patrol outside Gorazde were attacked and pinned down for two hours yesterday. They returned fire, and escaped without sustaining any casualties. Meanwhile, a United Nations observation post outside Tuzla came under fire, and the command bunker and a vehicle were destroyed. The Nordic peace-keepers manning the post had been warned of the attack in advance, and managed to evacuate it without injury.

The spokesman went on to say that a Jordanian military observer suffering from a serious heart condition had been released by Bosnian Serb forces in Banja Luka in exchange for a Russian observer who volunteered to take his place. The Bosnian Serbs had insisted that a hostage be provided to replace the Jordanian soldier. They also released one of the two observers seized in violation of an exchange agreement yesterday, but continued to hold a total of four United Nations personnel.

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The General Assembly has called on all States to become party to the Law of the Sea Convention and the implementation Agreement on Part XI -- on deep seabed mining -- to achieve universal participation in the Convention. The Assembly reaffirmed the unified character of the Convention, which entered into force on 16 November, and called on all States to harmonize their national legislation with, and ensure consistent application of, its provisions. It took that action yesterday, in a resolution adopted by 130 votes in favour to 1 against (Turkey), with 7 abstentions (Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Peru, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand and Venezuela).

According to the resolution, the Assembly will undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea. It requested the Secretary-General to provide, from within existing resources, services for meetings of States parties to the Convention and to convene a meeting relating to the organization of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in New York from 15 to 19 May 1995. He was also requested to designate a United Nations staff member with secretariat support to prepare for the organization of the Tribunal.

The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive annual report and special reports on specific topics; make recommendations for action by the Assembly; strengthen the existing system for providing information on the law of the sea; ensure that the Organization could respond

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to requests by States, particularly developing ones, for advice and assistance; and establish facilities for deposit of maritime maps and charts.

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The Prime Minister of Latvia, Marius Gailis, told the General Assembly today that the withdrawal of Russian military forces from the Baltic States was an historic event which brought one of the consequences of the Second World War to an end. Speaking on behalf of the Baltic States, he said that for the Russian Federation, the withdrawal was a milestone on the path of democratization and a repudiation of an odious part of the former Soviet Union's legacy. For Europe, it meant increased security and new opportunities for integration. He added that certain agreements would require continued cooperation by all sides, and the involvement of the international community, until the end of the century.

As the Assembly concluded its consideration of the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Baltic States, the Russian representative said a page had been turned on the past. The Russian Federation and the Baltic States could now turn to important trade and economic issues.

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A motion that no action be taken on a draft resolution concerning capital punishment was defeated today in the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) by 65 votes in favour to 74 against, with 20 abstentions. The Committee decided to postpone action on the draft until tomorrow. Singapore proposed the no-action motion, supported by Algeria, Bangladesh and Egypt.

By the terms of the draft resolution on capital punishment, the General Assembly would encourage all States that have not yet abolished the death penalty to consider instituting a moratorium on pending executions. The Assembly would take that action with a view to ensuring that the principle that no State should dispose of the life of any human being be universally affirmed by the year 2000. It would also call on all States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced some senior-level staff changes which will take effect on 1 January. Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto will move to the Department for Political Affairs, where he will replace Rosario Green as Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Ms. Green will be transferred to the Secretary-General's Cabinet to serve as Special Adviser.

John Hughes, former Editor of The Christian Science Monitor, will join the Secretariat in January as Director of Communications in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. He will help articulate the

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Organization's policies and coordinate press and public affairs programmes. He will take leave of absence from Brigham Young University in Utah, where he is Professor of Communications and Director of the International Media Studies Programme.

* * *

There has been significant progress in the establishment of a secure and stable environment in Haiti, according to the latest report of the Multinational Force. The report, covering the two-week period from 21 November to 3 December, was transmitted by the United States to the President of the Security Council in a letter dated 5 December. It noted that there had been no incidents of violence directed against the Force or the advance team of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), and few incidents among Haitians.

Operations by the Multinational Force and deployments of the Interim Public Security Force and international police monitors to outlying areas have significantly enhanced overall stability in Haiti, the report said. Meanwhile, the Force has helped Haitian ministries to establish functional governance. It has also assisted with relief work, including the restoration of infrastructure and services, in the wake of tropical storm Gordon.

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As of 30 November, Member States owed the United Nations some $2 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, more than $500 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.5 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed a total of $666 million to the regular and peace-keeping budgets. The Russian Federation owed the United Nations $532 million. The figures released today did not reflect a payment of $41 million made by Italy on 1 December.

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Pledges totalling $135 million were announced yesterday for the 1995 programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Agency provides a broad range of relief and social services to the Palestinian people.

At a meeting of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for Voluntary Contributions to UNWRA, announcements of contributions and support were made by 32 countries, as well as the European Commission and the Holy See. The largest pledges were made by the United States ($55 million), the European Commission ($40 million), Denmark ($10.7 million) and Switzerland ($7.5 million).

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The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has held a day of general discussion on education and public information activities relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Participating in the discussion in Geneva on Monday were representatives of several United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, said the Organization had been giving increasing attention to human rights education. The objective must be to teach the "common language of humanity" to people everywhere, so that they could translate it into their daily conduct. Human rights should not be one subject among others, it should permeate all aspects of education at all levels and in all forms.

Genevieve Pinet of WHO welcomed the Decade for Human Rights Education and said her agency placed much hope in the human rights commitment of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. She appealed for the introduction of thematic human rights education on the right to health during the Decade. The realization of that right was a prerequisite for the enjoyment of other essential rights, such as the right to development, she stressed.

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UNITED NATIONS

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8 December 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNAVEM II until 8 February 1995 to enable it to monitor cease-fire established by Lusaka Protocol; welcomes Secretary-General's decision to proceed with restoration of Mission to previous strength.

+ General Assembly launches International Decade of Indigenous People; Assembly President stresses importance of international political and economic cooperation in addressing problems faced by indigenous groups.

+ UNPROFOR reports several attacks against peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian Serbs give clearance for UNHCR aid convoy to proceed to Bihac.

+ Special Representative for Mozambique says installation of Parliament and inauguration of President in Maputo represent major success for United Nations; ONUMOZ mandate to end formally tomorrow, but residual operations to continue until end of January.

+ States must maintain momentum created by Naples Conference on Transnational Organized Crime, Italy tells Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 8 February 1995 to enable the Mission to monitor the cease-fire established by the Lusaka Protocol. The Council commended the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) for signing the Protocol, and urged them to fully respect the cease-fire which entered into effect on 22 November. It expressed deep concern at reports of renewed clashes in the country, which caused suffering to the civilian population, and might jeopardize the successful implementation of the Protocol and hamper the effective discharge of UNAVEM II's mandate.

By unanimously adopting resolution 966 (1994), the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to proceed with the restoration of UNAVEM II to its previous strength. The actual enlargement would depend on the strict observance by the parties of the effective cease-fire and on the provision by them of satisfactory guarantees regarding the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to deploy personnel to the countryside, in order to enhance the Mission's verification capabilities and as an extra confidence-building measure.

The Council noted the Secretary-General's intention to report on the possible mandate for a new United Nations operation in Angola based on his assessment of the circumstances that warranted that, including the maintenance of the cease-fire. The report should detail his efforts to identify potential troop-contributing countries, the objectives and financial aspects of such an operation, and progress towards a status-of-forces agreement with the Angolan Government. The Council said it would review the United Nations role in Angola by 8 February 1995 at the latest, in the light of that report.

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The General Assembly today launched the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2004) at a special meeting. Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said indigenous people's efforts to preserve their identity must be recognized within the context of international political and economic cooperation. The international community, especially the United Nations, was duty bound to promote efforts to maintain human diversity, as it worked for consensus on such issues as peace, security and human rights. The programme of action for the Decade was a framework for cooperation in addressing the problems faced by indigenous peoples, he added.

The National Secretary for Indigenous and Ethnic Minorities Affairs of Ecuador, Luis Felipe Duchicela, said empty speeches and political manipulation were no longer acceptable responses to the many risks which indigenous peoples faced on a daily basis. "The world has to be aware that the indigenous peoples are not willing to tolerate one more day of oblivion, of deceit, and lack of respect for our identity, our values, our history, our dignity", he stressed.

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United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina came under attack in six separate incidents in the past 24 hours, according to UNPROFOR Radio in Zagreb. In Goradze, a British soldier on foot patrol was hit by a bullet, resulting in the loss of a finger. A Ukrainian patrol and an UNPROFOR observation post also came under fire in Gorazde. In Sector South-West, two spanish UNPROFOR soldiers were slightly injured after coming under indirect fire from Bosnian Serb positions.

UNPROFOR reported that the humanitarian aid situation remained critical in many parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the authorities in Knin

convoy to proceed through to Bihac. The convoy, which left Zagreb this morning with 100 tonnes of food, would be the first into the Bihac pocket since 1 October. Meanwhile, aid convoys have arrived in Zepa, Srebrenica and Gorazde.

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Mozambique's new Parliament was installed in Maputo today, and Joachim Chissano will be inaugurated as President tomorrow, following the country's first multi-party elections in October. The mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) will thus formally come to an end at midnight tomorrow. However, ONUMOZ will continue to carry out residual functions until it is fully shut down at the end of January.

The United Nations created ONUMOZ in 1992, and brokered a cease-fire with a view to the holding of democratic elections. The visit of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to Mozambique last October resulted in an agreement by all parties on the formation of an Electoral Commission and on the demobilization of forces, according to Special Representative Aldo Ajello. That breakthrough created the momentum for peace which led to the elections and democracy in Mozambique.

Mr. Ajello said the installation of the Parliament and the inauguration of Mr. Chissano as President represented a major achievement in the facilitation of democratization and peace by the United Nations. The elections proved that peace could not be imposed in a situation where there was no will to achieve it. The success in Mozambique also represented a victory for a policy of flexibility in dealing with the various protagonists, he added.

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The Naples Conference on Transnational Organized Crime was a fundamental step towards more incisive action against organized crime, Italian Justice Minister Alfredo Biondi told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today. As the Committe continued its consideration of crime prevention and criminal justice, he noted that the Declaration and Global Action Plan adopted by the Conference last month indicated measures each State must take to deal with the problem. He underlined the need to reconcile national laws, so that there would be no advantage for criminal groups in transferring their activities across borders.

The representative of Uganda, host country of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, said that Institute played a crucial role in the fight against crime in Africa. However, it was in a precarious financial situation and its survival was at stake because of the economic difficulties facing most African countries. He appealed to the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to continue providing financial assistance to the Institute.